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John — OPS-2
LD

29 October 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, USSR Division

FROM:

[redacted] ✓

Chief, International/Military Affairs Section

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SUBJECT: Trip Report--London, Vienna Bureaus 21-25 September 1987

1. London Bureau, PMU. On 21-22 September I visited London Bureau, PMU and the BBC Monitoring Service. I met with [redacted] DC/LD; [redacted] chief editor/LD; [redacted] C/PMU; [redacted] chief monitor/PMU; [redacted] PMU editors; and [redacted] chief monitor/BBC. I was briefed on bureau, PMU and BBC operations; I briefed LD and PMU personnel on current headquarters' concerns and discussed coverage, editing and terminology questions.

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2. Coverage: [redacted] strongly urged that UD and the field re-divide coverage of sources to allow PMU and LD to concentrate on the newspapers they receive via satellite fax, and leave sources which come only by mail to UD. I pointed out that some sources which contain significant amounts of time-sensitive material (eg., EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA and OGONEK) are not received via fax, whereas some faxed papers would not repay close attention by PMU or anyone else (eg., LESNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST and PIONERSKAYA PRAVDA). [redacted] indicated that PMU and LD are overtaxed; they want to drop coverage of as many sources as possible. I tentatively suggested NOVOYE VREMYA/NEW TIMES as a possible candidate for UD scanning. [redacted]

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3. Reston Move Impact. I informed PMU and LD of UD's temporary shutdown due to the move to Reston, and requested special attention in the interim to economic issues (especially EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA and discussions of the second year of the current five-year plan and of the reliability of official statistics); PMU/LD indicated they would help out. [redacted]

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4. Press Selection Lists. [redacted] asked if DAILY REPORT could send messages in response to selection lists, in cases where listed items seem unlikely candidates for DR publication. I explained that time constraints would hinder this and that most items are discarded for reasons of space rather than newsworthiness per se. However, I agreed to pass the suggestion to the Soviet DR book chief. I also encouraged PMU to use the "UD attention" flag in selection lists for doubtful items. PMU indicated that they are already using this method more often in preference to filing FYIs. [redacted]

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5. Soviet TV Summaries. During the briefing by [] on BBC operations, I learned that a BBC monitor spends considerable time scanning Soviet TV and preparing detailed summaries (five-hour sample attached) to meet British Defense Ministry requirements. I explained DIA's analogous interest in Soviet TV to [] is optimistic LD can service DIA's requirement and transmit pictures as needed to headquarters via INTERNET. Mike indicated that LD only needs a specific requirement on this. []

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6. APN Coverage. [] also mentioned that BBC has the capability to monitor APN; they do not normally do so, since this would require taking personnel and equipment off of other wire services. []

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7. UD TV Projects. I described UD's experiments with TV gisting, and the Burlatskiy and Chernobyl special projects, to []

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8. Editing: I passed on to LD and PMU some guidelines from the Soviet DR book chief for headlines and keying of items with special reference to Soviet Foreign Ministry press briefings. []

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9. Terminology: [] indicated that BBC plans to stick by its established translations of the economic terms khozraschet, samofinansirovaniye and samookupayemost; a detailed message from PMU on these terms will be forthcoming. On the phrase "obkom partii (party obkom)" the feeling seemed to be that even though the word "party" is redundant it should be left in since that is how it appears in Russian. Pat Smith indicated that PMU finds NO UNCERTAIN TERMS extremely valuable and plans to request an increased number of subscription copies. []

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10. Austria Bureau. On 24-25 September I visited Austria Bureau. I met with bureau chief [], deputy chief [], chief monitor [], Russian monitors [], and bureau editors. [] arranged meetings for me at the U.S delegations to the MBFR talks and CSCE. []

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11. Meeting With Bureau Monitors. On 24 September I met with bureau monitors. [] commented that the bureau is always glad to receive feedback from headquarters, positive or negative. In particular, he requested feedback from [] on AU translations from KOMMUNIST if there are problems with this material. He also asked if AU should continue to file FYI comparisons of texts of Gorbachev speeches as published in KOMMUNIST with other versions. []

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12. Selection, Terminology. I discussed selection and terminology with [redacted]. I explained to them that UD would be effectively shut down until late October due to the move to Reston; I encouraged them to use the "UD attention" flag for less time-sensitive items thereafter. They asked for any reference works, substantive or linguistic, that I thought might be relevant, with special reference to economics issues and terminology. In particular, they identified JPRS Soviet Union reports, especially KOMMUNIST; the next printout of the SMITE Soviet military terminology data base; the Russian economics glossary now in preparation in UD; and the most recent AG Soviet commentators list. They also indicated that they find NO UNCERTAIN TERMS very useful. [redacted]

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13. CSCE Delegation. On 24 September I visited [redacted], CIA representative on the U.S. delegation to the Vienna CSCE followup meeting. [redacted] indicated that the delegation was dissatisfied with FBIS lateral servicing. He mentioned as specific examples of material that should have been filed to CSCE but was not covered the Alma-Ata riots and the CPSU Central Committee in June. [redacted] plans a follow-up contact with [redacted]

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14. Meeting With Bureau Editors. On 25 September I met with Austria bureau editors. I passed along some guidelines from the Soviet DR book chief on headlines and coding. We discussed the lateral servicing problem; the editors felt a meeting with [redacted] to discuss his requirements would be helpful here. On the phrase "obkom partii (party obkom)," [redacted] indicated that the bureau needed an admin message from DR specifying one or another preferred translation. [redacted]

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15. MBFR Delegation. On 25 September [redacted] I visited the U.S. MBFR delegation. We met with [redacted] CIA representative on the delegation; [redacted] public affairs officer; [redacted] of Intelligence Liaison Service; and Maj. John Markowitz of DIA. [redacted] told us that the delegation was satisfied with FBIS lateral servicing and also made extensive use of hard-copy DR and JPRS publications. [redacted] expressed special interest in the current rethinking of Soviet military strategy and doctrine, its implications for Soviet arms control behavior and the extent to which it is driven by a need to reallocate resources within the Soviet economy. He mentioned the JPRS translation of "M.V. Frunze--Military Theorist" by Gareyev as particularly useful along this line. He also indicated interest in any Soviet writing on the conventional force balance in Europe. [redacted] invited [redacted] to visit the bureau. [redacted]

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